

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097
Organized in 1806



The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Bringing in the Light of Christ

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *based on Matthew 14:22-33*

We gather together to worship God,
who comes to us when we least expect it,
**who calls us out of the safety of our ordered lives
and invites us to join in the adventure of faith.**
Let's worship God together!

***Hymn # 85 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"**

Words: William Whiting, 1860, alt.; Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bid the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word the wind and waves submissive hear,
who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bid its angry tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them where so e'er they go;
thus ever more shall rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life *in unison*

Gracious and Loving God, bring calm

to the storms that batter us and blow us off course.
We do not need to walk on water; we need only walk
through our lives as whole and holy children
who recognize that Your love unites us,
buoys us, and carries us forward
to face miraculous challenges in a complex world.
Help us to see through the clutter of daily existence
and focus on what is most important:
love, compassion, faith, and connection. AMEN

A moment of silent reflection

Words of Assurance

Even when we doubt, God is with us.
God walks beside us, through us, with us, in all that we do.
Miracles are among us if we see ourselves with God's loving gaze.
Thanks be to God! AMEN

Introduction to Scripture

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, Interim Pastor

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon "Take Heart"

Hymn for All Ages # 342 "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

Words: C Gabarain, 1979; tr. G.C.Suppe, G. Lockwood, R. Gutierrez-Achon, 1987

Music: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979; harm. Skinner Chavez-Melo, 1987

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.
Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.
Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;

by your side I will seek other seas.

You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

***Doxology:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, You call us
to let go of the things we cling to
and step out in faith,
trusting in Your love and provision.
Give us courage to step out boldly,
and sufficient faith to follow without fear.
Take our lives and our gifts.
Use them to accomplish
more than we could possibly imagine.
AMEN.**

***Benediction**

***Response # 445 “Go in Peace”**

Words: Barber I. Waters, 1982 Music: Kenneth E. White, 1982

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate life!
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Acknowledgements: Today's Call to Worship, Prayer of Dedication, Benediction, and cover photo are from ReWorship.com. The Prayer for Transformation and New Life, and the Words of Assurance, are from UCC Worship Ways.

Staff

Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glassock

Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman

Organist: Peter Dickson

Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman

Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath

Treasurer: Lois Knight

Church Phone: 829-3644

Church e-mail: nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com

Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>

Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org

YouTube: youtube.com/c/nyccucc

Note: This service is recorded and streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com asking to be added to the list. Like the NYCC FB page and you will be notified of what is happening there, too!

Offerings can also be made online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940>.

THIS WEEK*

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour / Faith Formation Team Meeting

Tuesday – August 11 - Tuesday Gals at 10am / Trustees Meeting at 6pm

On Thursday, August 13, please join us for Trivia Night! Starting at 5:30 p.m. we will enjoy a potluck supper and then play “Bible Trivia” (with some fun facts about the UCC denomination and NYCC history mixed in). For more information, speak with Amanda Skupin.

Office Admin. Lyn, will be on vacation from August 10-13th.

IN OUR PRAYERS*

We pray for those in our congregation and community who are

- mourning the loss of loved ones;
- serving our country in the military,
including James Black, E-6, US Navy;

- experiencing health issues or personal concerns, including Candy B., George D. (Leah D.'s brother), Sandra and Vince G., Sam Kajima, Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., and Susanellen S.

We pray for those in the wider world, nationally and globally who are

- hungry or unhoused,
- experiencing violence and destruction from wars and conflicts,
- rebuilding their lives following natural disasters,
- recovering from trauma.

We pray for peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

*Please submit items for the Church Calendar to Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. For the prayer list, please speak with a deacon or the pastor. Thank You. Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708